

Standard 7-4 The student will demonstrate an understanding of the impact of imperialism throughout the world in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

7-4.5 Summarize the significant features and explain the causes of Japan's imperial expansion in East Asia, including the defeat of the Russians in the Russo-Japanese War, the reasons for the expansion in Korea and Manchuria, and the rise of Japan as a world power. (H, G, E)

Taxonomy Level: B 2 Understand/Conceptual Knowledge

Previous/future knowledge:

This is the first time students have been taught the significant features and causes of Japan's imperial expansion in East Asia, including the defeat of the Russians in the Russo-Japanese War, the reasons for the expansion in Korea and Manchuria, and the rise of Japan as a world power.

In Global Studies, students will explain the economic and cultural impact of European involvement on other continents during the era of European expansion (GS-4.2). Students will also compare the political actions of European, Asian, and African nations in the era of imperial expansion, including the response of the Ottoman Empire to European commercial power, the motives and results of Russian expansion, the importance of British power in India, the collapse of Chinese government and society, the reasons for and the effects of Japan's transformation and expansion, and the resistance to imperialism (GS-4.5).

It is essential for students to know

Under the rule of the Tokugawa shoguns, Japan had been isolated from any contact outside the country. Beginning in the mid-1800s, western powers attempted to open trade with Japan. In 1853, US Commodore Matthew Perry forcibly opened trade with Japan through the Treaty of Kanagawa. Soon thereafter, other Western powers also obtained trading rights with Japan. Japanese citizens were angered by the foreign involvement in their country. The shogun stepped down from power, allowing the imperial family to take control of the country and ending the military dictatorships that had controlled Japan since the 12th century.

The Meiji Era became a period of modernization for Japan, as the emperor realized that the best response to imperial threats was to become an industrial power. Japan studied Western civilizations and incorporated many similar aspects into its own system. The Japanese developed a constitutional monarchy with an updated constitution, reformed the military, adopted universal public education, and focused on industrialization and communication systems. By 1890, Japan was a modern, competitive country, able to be an imperial power in its own right.

In 1876, Japan forced trade with **Korea**. China had similar trading interests, and in an attempt to prevent conflict, China and Japan pledged not to send their armies into Korea. In 1894, China did send troops into Korea to help quell rebellions occurring there. Japan protested this move and declared war on China. During the course of the Sino-Japanese War, Japan destroyed the Chinese navy, cleared Korea of Chinese occupation, and gained a foothold in Manchuria.

Following the Sino-Japanese War, Russia and Japan were the two strongest powers of East Asia, and both desired control of **Manchuria**. Japan initially offered a compromise, agreeing to recognize Russian rights to Manchuria in exchange for Japanese rights to Korea, but this offer was refused. In 1904, Japan attacked Russia, beginning the Russo-Japanese War. Japan again destroyed much of Russia's naval powers, and also drove Russia out of Korea. The war ended in defeat for Russia in 1905. Following the Russian defeat, Japan made Korea a protectorate, eventually annexing the country and was recognized as a world power. It would continue this course of action well into the 20th century in both world wars.

It is not essential for students to know

It is not necessary that students know all steps that Japan took to become an imperial power; the focus should remain on the fact that they become an industrialized country rather than remaining weak. Specific details (battles, for example) of the Sino-Japanese War and the Russo-Japanese War are not necessary.

Assessment guidelines:

The objective of this indicator is to **summarize** the significant features and explain the causes of Japan's imperial expansion in East Asia; therefore, assessments should require students to **describe** the defeat of the Russians in the Russo-Japanese War, **list** the reasons for Japan's expansion in Korea and Manchuria, and **detail** the rise of Japan as a world power.